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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-ninth session
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written statement submitted by Caucasians United for Reparations and Emancipation/All for Reparations and Emancipation, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[8 July 1997]

1. With reference to the report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Maurice Glélé-Ahanhanzo, on his mission to the United States of America in 1994 (E/CN.4/1995/78/Add.1), the Special Rapporteur accurately informed the Commission on Human Rights that the human rights of African Americans have been violated from the establishment of the United States until the present day. However, the Special Rapporteur states that racism may not now be a deliberate policy on the part of the United States Government. We seek to

inform the United Nations that the report did not express the bitterness of the African-American people and their sincere belief that racial discrimination is a deliberate policy. Because of the exhaustion of domestic remedy, there now exists a belief that racial discrimination will never cease. This belief is confirmed by the failure of African-American leaders in the United States Congress to gain permission from the Caucasian majority for a study of slavery to determine whether reparations are due.

2. In 1993 a highly respected African-American leader delivered a "1503" communication to the Working Group on Communications on behalf of African Americans. This communication, delivered by the Honourable Silis Muhammad, leader of the Lost Found Nation of Islam, was not forwarded to the Sub-Commission because it did not prove a consistent pattern of human rights violations. We believe the United Nations knows that a consistent pattern of human rights violations is already a matter of African, European and American history, brought up to the present and verified by the aforementioned Special Rapporteur. The African-American population is becoming aware that their "1503" communication was rejected by the Working Group and therefore ignored by the United Nations. This awareness adds to the already existing belief that racial discrimination will never cease.

3. Making reference to the recent remarks of United States President Bill Clinton wherein he mentioned the possibility of an apology for slavery, we seek to inform the United Nations that the masses of African Americans feel that an apology is not enough, while the masses of Caucasian Americans feel there is no reason to apologize. In monitoring the African-American press and Internet communications, we have observed that African Americans do not believe President Clinton has the interest of justice at heart. African Americans have seen the United States Government strike down affirmative action and special preferences in universities and law schools, some of which now have a 100 per cent Caucasian enrolment. They have also seen that the United States judicial system continues to imprison African-American men at 10 times the rate of Caucasian men and execute the death penalty at the same rate. Now, after President Clinton's remarks, they see that Caucasian Americans can conceive of no reason even to apologize for slavery.

4. The prayers of African Americans for justice and reparations have been been rejected by the United States Government and, seemingly, by the United Nations. Because the struggle seems hopeless, the African-American population has reached a state of extreme anxiety. We observe that some leaders are considering changing their tactics because of the failure of peaceful and legal means of solving the problem. We believe that African Americans may decide to use extreme measures and thereby gain the attention of the world community. We fear that the United States Government may respond with imprisonment of African-American leaders. We ask the United Nations to respond to our communication by establishing a meeting wherein African-American leaders (those who are not under the authority of the United States Government) can speak to the United Nations human rights authorities candidly and privately about the desperate plight of African Americans.